25X1A

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Poland	DATE OF INFORMATION	1948 - 1952
SUBJECT	Economic - Solid fuels, insulation materials		
HOW PUBLISHED	Biweekly newspaper and monthly periodical	DATE DIST.	17 Mar 1953
WHERE PUBLISHED	Berlin, Lublin	NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE PUBLISHED	Jan 1948 - 17 Sep 1952		
LANGUAGE	German, Polish	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

ILLEGIB

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspaper and periodical as indicated.

POLISH PEAT INDUSTRY

DEVELOPMENTS IN MINING AND PROCESSING -- Berlin, Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 17 Sep 52

The cutting and processing of peat in Poland are undertaken by the state-owned Przemysl Torfowy (Peat Industry) enterprise subordinate to the Ministry of Mines and by the Administration of the Peat Industry attached to the central office of the Peasants' Self-Help Cooperatives. The State peat enterprises exploit primarily high-level moors and marshes and undertake the utilization of peat for industrial purposes, whereas the cooperatives cut peat in lowland moors and marshes for heating purposes.

Peat resources in Poland cover a total area of about 2 million hectares. The largest peat bogs are located in Olsztyn Wojewodztwo and in the river valleys of the Oder, Bzura, Notec, Brda Bug, and Dunajec Rivers. Reserves of peat have been estimated at 3 billion tons. The exploitation of high-level moors began only in recent years.

For the year 1950, it was planned to produce 215,000 bales (of 60 kilograms each). Difficulties in starting the operation hampered the execution of the plan, which was fulfilled only 57 percent. In 1951, however, it was possible to conclude the production plan, which had been set at 220,000 bales, with a surplus. The 1952 plan provides for a production of 500,000 bales.

The highest yields are secured from the peat deposits in Lublin, Olsztyn, Poznan, and Koszalin. An increased yield of peat has been registered by Szczecin Wojewodztwo, where the number of peat-cutting installations has been increased in 1952 from 28 to 50. Production there in 1952 will probably be 35 percent greater than in 1951.

To intensify the exploitation of peat bogs and the industrial utilization of peat, a basic reorganization of the Polish peat industry is in process. After 1 January 1953, all phases of peat production will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Small Industries and Handicrafts. Its authority

25X1A

will extend over all peat-cutting establishments with an annual output of more than 15,000 tons, as well as the peat-processing industry now in process of formation (peat briquet factories, factories for insulating boards made of peat, peat coke, and peat semicoke).

Investigations of the peat deposits are now being carried on by the Central Geological Office and the Peat Institute. The results of these surveys will serve as a basis for dividing the peat bogs between state and local peat industries. The agricultural producers' cooperatives and the state farms will in the future cut peat only for their own immediate use.

An extensive mechanization of the peat cuttings will be started in 1953. In this connection, the Administration of the Machine Industry attached to the Ministry of Small Industries and Handicrafts has established a special division for peat machinery, including a special designing office. The Peat Institute has already designed several such machines, production of which will start at the close of 1952. A certain number of machines and tools are being obtained by the Polish peat industry through import.

The Peat Institute is also engaged in developing a technical procedure for the production of peat briquets, as well as the construction plans for several peat-briquet factories, each of which is to have an annual production of about 10,000 tons. The chemical processing of peat, which permits a higher degree of utilization of the raw material, is still in the stage of early experimentation in Poland. The design of suitable ovens for the production of peat coke and peat semicoke and their by-products (peat gas and gas tar), as well as methods of processing these by-products, are subjects of investigations by the Peat Institute.

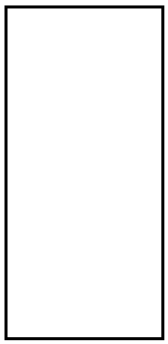
Before the war, Poland had only one peat-processing factory in the neighborhood of Bydgoszcz, the production of which was relatively small. This factory produced peat mold, which was exported for lack of domestic demand. After the establishment of seven larger factories between 1946 and 1950, the production of peat mold has grown considerably. Today, the quantities produced are consumed entirely within the country.

The production of peat boards for insulating purposes is still in its beginnings. The inauguration of production on a larger scale depends on an improvement of the technological basis and a mechanization of the production process. Peat boards are not yet able to compete with other insulation materials.

The sale of peat products still meets with many difficulties. The use of peat mold as litter on farms is insufficient at present. Heavy demand exists only in the agricultural sector of the Katowice Wojewodztwo in which there is a lack of straw. To improve sales, an extensive enlightenment campaign on the many uses of peat and peat products has been inaugurated.

PEAT AS SUBSTITUTE FOR CORK -- Lublin, Medycyna Weterynaryjna, Vol IV, No 1, Jan 48

Recently, Engr Stanislaw Kuligowski, technical director of the Zjednoczenie Fabryk Papy i Izolacji Okregu Slaska Wschodniego (Association of Tar-Paper and Insulation-Products Factories of the Eastern Slask Region) at Katowice developed a method of producing peat-slab material which could be substituted for cork as insulation material in railroad passenger cars, refrigerator cars, and housing.



It is estimated that peat slabs can replace 75 percent of the current cork requirements. In addition, the cost of peat slabs is one tenth of the cost of cork. The strength of peat slabs meets the requirements of refrigeration and construction. Moreover, peat slabs can be impregnated to resist absorption of moisture. Peat slabs look like cork except that they are slightly darker.

The Miller Factory in Piekary Slaskie will be converted to the production of peat slabs. Later the impregnating plant of Fordon will be adapted to large-scale production, since it is located near peat deposits.

- E N D -